



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

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Arizona Department of Public Safety officers seize more than \$1.8 million during March

Several traffic stops by Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers along with efforts by DPS criminal investigators resulted in the seizure of \$1.8 million in drug money during March 2008. All of the money seized was U.S. currency.

The largest money seizure by DPS during a single traffic stop occurred on March 6 when an officer from the DPS Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau stopped a commercial truck south of Interstate 10 in Phoenix. Officers found \$553,950 concealed in the back wall of the sleeper berth.

“Considering we seized almost 23,000 pounds of marijuana last month, it doesn’t surprise me that we also took almost \$2 million in drug cash off the highways. There can’t be a more vivid picture of what we’re up against in the day-to-day battle against the illegal drug trade,” said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona’s highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona’s largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona’s 15 counties.

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